

people throughout the Empire, the same rigid regard for savings appears.

Now, out of certain very sandy, or hilly and poor localities, the reverse of this appears in this country. Our hotels are, owing to the absence of the *carte system*, scenes of profusion. The traveler sits down—has a bill-of-fare offered him, as long as a Secretariat report, and chooses right and left what to eat; and when it comes, he leaves the greater part untouched. There is the same waste in clothes; in furniture; in the mode of putting up houses; in the mode of burning them down; in the crashes of railroads; and the explosions of steamboats.

It is the very ecstasy of youth applying rebellious whisky to its blood, and something more. But we maintain that if we will not waste wealth as we do—will not throw away food, raiment and shelter, as though they could be produced without sweat and toil, and if we will simply practice the obviously good personal and family economies which rule in Europe, it will be a saving many-fold greater than all that is required to meet the financial burdens of the war. But we will only arrive at such economies by experience; and as it is likely that we shall have the experience, the weight of the national tax-load will not be imposed in vain, even leaving out of view the salvation of the Union and of the freedom of the States.

REAL ESTATE.

The excitement at the Stock Board has extended to real estate, and some of our shrewdest owners are availing themselves of it to realize on investments which have proved heavy of late years, and which have only too gloomy a prospect in the future. This reaction is the inevitable consequence of an inflation both of values and rents which could never be sustained. The great concessions in rents already made prove insufficient, under the discouragements and reduction which the business of the city has suffered. This fact, with the threatened burden of increased taxation to be laid on all property, whether occupied or not, has the effect to make buyers exceedingly cautious.

Some of our cotemporaries are endeavoring to inflame this spirit of speculation, by heralding an advance of real estate. Such speculation is not only unfounded, but adverse to the interests of our city and people. No more fictitious values should be added to the commodities which all must use.

The *Montreal Gazette* thus gingerly handles Jeff. Davis's Murder manifesto:

"As a *paterfamilias*, we insert at length to-day, the proclamation of President Davis, in which he outlaws Gen. Butler, of which the telegraph had given us scraps. It will become a topic of no doubt angry discussion. We may state that the New-York Tribune severely attacks it, while the New-York World admits that the charges it contains are too well founded for the fair sense of the nation."

"The N. Y. World Admits," is a funny way of putting the case. That "World" is very fond of admitting whatever disparages and seeks to damage the National cause. You might as fairly say that *The Richmond Enquirer* or *Dispatch* "admits" that the Union can never be restored.

But *The Gazette* does not thus excuse its own dishonesty. The Murder Proclamation was issued weeks after its author knew that Gen. Butler had been relieved from command. It is therefore mere moonshine as to him; while its directions that all negroes captured while in arms for the Union shall be put to death in cold blood, and that all White officers should be treated likewise, are the real gist of this Proclamation. Why does *The Gazette* seek to shuffe this out of sight by pretending that the Proclamation is only or mainly aimed at Gen. Butler?

The California Legislature—Ballotings for

E. S. Senator—No Choice.
SAN FRANCISCO, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1863.
In the California Legislature three more ballotings have been taken for a United States Senator.

The following is the result of the last ballot:
Capt. ... 31
Sargent ... 22
The balance scattering. Necessary for a choice, 51.
The friends of Mr. Park mostly voted for Mr. Sargent.

Election of a Senator from Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1863.
The Minnesota Legislature met here to-day in joint convention, and on the first ballot the Hon. Alexander Ramsey was elected a Senator, to serve for six years from the 4th of March next. Gov. Ramsey is an ardent and constitutional Unionist, and will sustain the Administration in the most vigorous measures it can employ to crush the Rebellion.

Post-Office Robbery—Mines Resuming Work.

SCRANTON, Pa., Thursday Jan. 15, 1863.
The Post Office at Scranton was broken into last night and its contents cleared, including the mail-bags made up for the South via the Lehigh and Baltimore railroads.

The coal miners are resuming work to-day.

New-York Common Council Committee and the Army of the Potomac.

BALTIMORE, Thursday, Jan. 15, 1863.
The New-York Common Council Committee, having failed to obtain a pass to visit Falmouth and a few days, returned to-day to Baltimore, and will go forward to Fortress Monroe to-morrow, to seek out Gen. Corcoran, and present him the sword from the Corporation.

The Anglo-Saxon Outward Bound.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1863.
The steamship *Anglo-Saxon*, from Portland 10th inst., passed Cape Race at 3 p. m. on Wednesday. The latest news and telegrams from Mr. Stokes's Commercial Agency in the 12th were put on board.

NEW-YORK CITY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

D. C.—The following dispatch was received by Ad. Fay, by the morning mail, from the special Committee appointed by the Common Council, from Frederickburg in order to procure the remains of the late Major Leidesdorf:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15, 1863.
We have just had an interview with the Secretary of War, and for the present he declines to pass to Frederickburg, and having heard from Burdette in answer to yesterday's dispatch, he apprehends that quiet may exist there just now. We shall hear further about the matter early this afternoon.

RECOVERING.—The friends of Richard C. McCormick, Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture, who has been seriously ill in this city since the 1st inst., will be pleased to know that he is recovering, though it may be some time before he will be able to return to his duties.

AFTERNOON EXHIBITION.—Dr. Colton announces an exhibition, with a series of philosophical experiments, for ladies and pupils of schools, at the Cooper Institute to-morrow afternoon.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

News of French Mediation Confirmed.—Language of the Semi-Official Press on that Subject—Nature and Character of French Mediation—What Drouyn de Lhuys says of the Reconciliation of the North and the South—No Reliance to be placed on the Papers and the Government Officials who are constantly Denying the Probability of French Mediation—The Tribune and the Diplomatic Body—A Frenchman Protests against the Objection of the Tribune to accept France as a Mediator.

From An Occasional Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1863.

The last mail from Europe brings nothing to indicate that a change has occurred in the dispositions of the French Cabinet concerning the proffer of mediation on American affairs to which I have referred in recent letters. As I have already said, the council of French Ministers held a few days before Christmas, has decided to call the attention of the President of the United States to the proposition, and to submit it to his judgment as soon as the answer of England and Russia, to which it has been presented for reconsideration, shall be known. As it has been sent with an explanatory letter of Drouyn de Lhuys, setting forth the reasons which induced the French Cabinet to believe that the time for mediation had come, and with the express declaration that should these two Powers still refuse this co-operation, France will in that case act alone, it is surmised that the deliberations upon so important a matter may be protracted and that the decision of the English and Russian Cabinets will not be sent to Paris before the middle of January.

The portion of the Parisian press which is known to reflect the views of the Government and support its measures, so far as it is permitted to speak out, corroborates in all respects what I have already stated concerning the intentions of the French Government. They attach immense importance to its action in this matter, and do not doubt that others are equally affected by it. This is so true that the *Constitutionnel*, the most important governmental paper after the *Moniteur*, is quite surprised not to see the proffer of mediation mentioned in Mr. Lincoln's Message, and finds fault with this voluntary neglect of so serious a subject. The *Pays*, another mouth piece of the Emperor, says that the proposition of mediation has been approved by all Europe; that several members of the British Cabinet were in favor of it, and that even those who deemed the measure premature, sent their compliments to its Majesty for the sentiments expressed in Drouyn de Lhuys's letter. Indeed, so great is the importance attached to it, that the *Moniteur* itself, the official organ of the Empire, undertakes its defense against the criticisms of the New-York press, which, it says, exaggerate and misunderstand its true character and bearing.

As to the offer of mediation which is likely to be presented within a month or so, I may assure you that, as has been already stated in my letter, it will be perfectly friendly in its tone and object, and free from any proposition or allusion calculated to awake our national susceptibility or injure the interests of the Union, which, as has been repeatedly said to Mr. Dayton and to Americans of rank who have visited the Emperor and his Minister, it is the intention of France to restore, if possible. It is known by all the persons who had recently the opportunity to speak to them on that subject, and I have in my possession the evidence of that fact, that their opinion was, and still is, that some attempt ought to be made to reconcile the two sections of the Union before it should be too late, and they have urged the adoption of that policy upon all the Americans who had access to them. The proposal of mediation was made in that view, and its presentation to the President of the United States is inspired by a similar desire. "Yes," said M. Drouyn de Lhuys to an American gentleman in Paris, "if the reconstruction of the Union is possible, there is but one country in the world which can realize it, and that is France." This is fully credited by all the diplomats in Washington, and anybody having the slightest acquaintance with any one of them may easily satisfy himself on that subject.

It is also believed that the action of the French Government in American affairs is governed by a sentiment of prudence and sagacity, inspired by the prospect of the meeting of the French Houses, which were to be opened January 12. To understand this, it is necessary to know that the idea of mediation has made great progress among all classes in France, but especially among the working men, who are forming a kind of moral free masonry all over the country, and among the manufacturers and merchants, whose opinions and advice have great influence with the Emperor. Now it is impossible, with the system of universal suffrage prevailing in the Empire, that these classes should not carry their complaints to the Legislative body and the Senate through their representatives, and it is in view of the discussion which must arise on that subject, that the French Government has taken the initiative of a policy which, according to the information I have, will be supported in both houses by a very strong majority. This, added to what you know already of the character of the Emperor of the French, explains the course adopted by him and his Ministers in reference to the American question.

I pay little attention to the contradictions I find here and there in your cotemporaries of the news I send you. My indifference arises from the fact that, however responsible may be the persons who supply these denials to the press, I have the best reasons to believe them wholly misinformed. It is they, you remember, who have all along declared that no foreign Power had any purpose of interfering in our affairs, and who, the very day the news of the mediation of France reached this country, had pointedly denied in the morning paper devoted to their policy that France would ever make such an attempt. How can such persons, I ask, whose written and spoken views since the beginning of our struggle offer such strange contrast to the events of contemporary history, and whose statements have so often been contradicted and their predictions belied by facts, claim to know anything about the acts and intentions of foreign Powers? 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